US Army Corps of Engineers®
Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AWARDS $28.9 MILLION FOR HERBERT HOOVER DIKE REHABILITATION

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District has awarded $28.9 million to Bauer Foundation Corp. of Clearwater, Fla., for construction of a Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) Rehabilitation seepage cutoff wall in Martin and Palm Beach counties.

The Corps awarded the task order May 23, 2008. The construction near Sand Cut includes a 3.5-mile long wall that runs from the dike crest, through foundation, to a depth of about 70 feet.

“I’m very happy with the progress we are making with the rehabilitation of Herbert Hoover Dike. Each phase of rehabilitation is a step forward in providing Lake Okeechobee residents with more protection than they had before,” said Jacksonville District Commander Col. Paul Grosskruger.

This is the second task order awarded for the HHD cutoff wall, but the first for Bauer. The Corps sought the world’s foremost cutoff wall construction experts and awarded three business performance-based contracts that do not dictate technique. Potentially, all three contractors can work simultaneously.

Once awarded a task order, a contractor must construct a 500-foot demonstration panel to prove the technique and finished panel meets rigorous engineering standards. Engineers test the panel prior to, during and after construction. Corps contractor, Hayward Baker Inc., based in Odenton, Md., successfully completed a panel near Port Mayaca in April, and is currently constructing a 3,500-foot section of wall.

Hayward Baker is using the Trench Cutting and Remixing Deep wall method (TRD), while Bauer Foundation will use a Hydraulic Excavator and Cutter-Soil-Mix (CSM) method. The TRD involves a

hydraulic-driven cutting and mixing arm, resembling a chain saw, that pumps out and mixes cement with foundation soil in a continuous trench as the trench is being dug. Bauer's CSM technique involves excavating a guide trench first to collect spoil, and then advancing the mixing tool into the ground. Cutting wheels break up dike materials and at the same time, a fluid is pumped through a set of nozzles, located between the cutting wheels, where it is mixed with the loosened soil.

A critical design feature in the rehabilitation, the wall will stop existing piping, or internal erosion, and prevent future piping. The first section of wall is being built from Port Mayaca to Belle Glade, a 22-mile stretch that is considered the most vulnerable section of the 143-mile dike. The Corps anticipates awarding a third task order in June and a fourth in August, with all construction taking place within the 22-mile section.

Jacksonville District is currently rehabilitating portions of the dike that were identified as most vulnerable, focusing initial efforts to achieve the most significant impacts. Engineers are also designing the HHD to dam standards, with additional redundancy and resiliency to account for extreme weather events.

Rehabilitating the HHD is the Jacksonville District's number one priority. In 2007, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers placed the HHD on the Top 6 list of dams in the nation needing repair. The Corps has prioritized and budgeted more funding for HHD in 2008 and 2009 than any other dam safety construction project in the nation. The HHD project received $56 million this year and, in Fiscal Year 2009, it's projected to receive $78 million for construction.

For further information about Herbert Hoover Dike, please visit our web site at www.saj.usace.army.mil or call the Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1953.

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